

Goldwater Asks Senate Inquiry Into U.S. Role in Cuba Invasion

Bids Armed Services Group Look Into Complaints on Lack of Air Cover

By E. W. KENWORTHY
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WASHINGTON, Jan. 23 —

Senator Barry Goldwater introduced a resolution today calling for an investigation by the Armed Services Committee of the Bay of Pigs invasion by Cuban refugees in April, 1961.

The Arizona Republican said such an investigation had been made necessary by a recent statement by Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy that United States air cover for the invasion had never been planned or promised.

Late this afternoon Senator Wayne Morse, Democrat of Oregon, announced that the Latin Affairs Subcommittee of the Foreign Relations Committee would be briefed by the State Department on reports of a Soviet build-up of ground and air defenses in Cuba.

Mr. Morse, who is chairman of the subcommittee, asked for the briefing after a Washington dispatch on The New York Times news service reported that large arms shipments were continuing to arrive in Cuba from the Soviet bloc.

Later Senator Richard B. Russell, Georgia Democrat who is chairman of the Armed Ser-



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Senator Barry Goldwater

vices Committee, said that it was up to the committee members to decide whether such an investigation "would serve a useful purpose."

Mr. Russell questioned the wisdom of the Attorney General in rehashing "this sad episode" in newspaper and magazine interviews.

"I didn't see that it served any useful purpose to relaunch this linen," Mr. Russell said. "It had never been very clean to begin with."

Mr. Russell said that "it is not the function of our committee to solve any political issues."

"This Bay of Pigs is fast assuming the status of a political question," he added.

But by implication he laid the blame on the Attorney General for giving Mr. Goldwater the opportunity to ask an investigation.

"We've had a year run by," the Senator said, "without anybody demanding an inquiry."

Also, he went on, he found it "a little difficult to see what the Attorney General—even if he is the President's brother—had to do with the Bay of Pigs in his official capacity."

Following the Bay of Pigs disaster President Kennedy brought Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor out of retirement to conduct an investigation for him.

General Taylor called on the President and said he had the pleasure to read.

Admiral A. Burke, Chief of Naval Operations, to help him.

In his recent interview, the Attorney General was quoted as saying:

"There never was any plan to have United States air cover for the 1,500 Cuban invaders. There never was any promise. Not even under Mr. Eisenhower was American air cover in the picture."

The training of the refugee force had begun during the Eisenhower administration. It had been widely reported that President Kennedy had called off planned air cover at the last moment.

Clear Picture to Russell

Mr. Russell said today that he had not read the interview but he thought he had "a pretty clear picture of what happened" in April, 1961, from his conversations at the time with Mr. Dulles and General Taylor and the testimony of military and civilian officials before the subcommittee of the CIA.

"I don't think there's any doubt that the people who made the invasion thought they had air cover arranged for," Mr. Russell said.

The only question was whether the air cover was to be provided by the armed forces or the CIA, he added. Mr. Goldwater, who is a member of the Armed Forces

Committee, said that "there was no denial from the White House nor from the Attorney General when stories were printed throughout the American press that air cover was withheld on orders of the President."

After offering his resolution, Mr. Goldwater told reporters:

"They should have left it alone. It is a black blot on American history. Before he [the Attorney General] brought it up last weekend, the American people had written it off."

Senator Morse suggested to members of the Senate that they could get the answer to the question raised by Mr. Goldwater by reading the secret testimony taken by his subcommittee on Latin American affairs.

Mr. Goldwater said he had read it and it was "the most interesting thing I have ever had the pleasure to read."